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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 7, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 2 totaled an estimated 16.7 billion ton-miles, 8.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 5 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 82 billion ton-miles, 11.2 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 2 totaled 434,978 cars, 5.7 percent above 1979, but 3.2 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.4 percent in the East, 0.9 percent in the South and 11.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 11 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases, led by coal loadings, up 19,089 cars, or 24.4 percent, and grain traffic which increased by 8,150 cars, or 38.5 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 26 totaled 34,498 cars, up 3.9 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 62,367 trailers and/or containers, 7.0 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 4 weeks of the year was 124,357 cars, 5.7 percent higher than last year, and 224,945 trailers and/or containers, up 10.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/2/80.

	Loadings in Week ended February 2, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,326	I	8,150	38.5	D	3,476	10.6
Other farm products	4,561	I	572	14.3	D	104	2.2
Metallic ores	22,231	D	5,160	18.8	D	1,433	6.1
Coal	97,260	I	19,089	24.4	D	6,300	6.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,037	D	212	1.7	D	841	6.5
Nonmetallic minerals	13,470	I	487	3.8	D	671	4.7
Grain mill products	18,843	I	1,345	7.7	D	482	2.5
Food and kindred products	19,017	I	616	3.3	D	702	3.6
Primary forest products	19,704	D	358	1.8	D	1,348	6.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,056	D	303	2.7	D	237	2.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,427	I	2,495	12.5	I	291	1.3
Chemicals and allied products	29,016	I	1,099	3.9	I	84	0.3
Petroleum products	6,459	D	429	6.2	D	351	5.2
Stone, clay and glass products	14,962	D	554	3.6	D	1,251	7.7
Coke	6,636	D	120	1.8	D	29	0.4
Metals and products	19,114	I	773	4.2	I	1,100	6.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,894	D	4,886	20.5	I	660	3.6
Waste and scrap materials	13,244	I	470	3.7	D	499	3.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,250	I	732	6.4	I	712	6.2
All other carloads	44,222	D	302	0.7	I	517	1.2
LCL traffic	249	D	236	48.7	D	19	7.1
Total Cars Loaded	434,978	I	23,268	5.7	D	14,379	3.2
Corresponding week of 1979	411,710						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (5 weeks)	2,134,894	1,975,551	I	8.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
4 weeks cumulative	65.7	58.7	I	12.0
Week ended February 2	16.7	15.5	I	3.8
5 weeks cumulative	82.5	74.2	I	11.2

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